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Message Text

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15
ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ABF-01 SY-04 FS-01 FBO-08 A-01 /025 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EX: BPWALKER:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/EX: BPWALKER
NEA/EX - MJONES
A/BF - WSMITH (PHONE)
A/SY - BFUSELIER (SUBST)
BF/FS - KDAY (PHONE)
---------- 040642
R 052112Z SEP 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/EX - WALKER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, SY
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL LEASES

REF: DAMASCUS 1814

1. REGRET WE PERHAPS DID NOT GIVE YOU SUFFICIENT INFORMATION EXPLAINING OUR POSITION ON CANCELLATION OF FY 74 LEASES - HOPE FOLLOWING WILL BE HELPFUL.

2. DAMASCUS EXPANSION TOOK PLACE IN TIME-FRAME NOT ALLOWING FOR INCLUSION OF FUNDS IN FY 75 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET SUBMISSION. FOR THIS REASON, NEA WAS GIVEN FY 74 YEAR-END MONEY BY A/BF TO COVER AS MUCH OF YOUR FY 75 AND FY 76 OPERATING EXPENSES AS POSSIBLE. IN THIS WAY, WE COULD MAKE UP FOR SOME OF THE UNBUDGETED DRAIN IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS, AND IS THE REASON WE ASKED POST TO ARRANGE TWO-YEAR ADVANCE RENTAL PAYMENTS.

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3. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION (BF/FS) INFORMS US

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THAT IF VALID CONTRACTS EXECUTED, OBLIGATED AND PAID IN FY 74 ARE CANCELLED IN FY 75, (A) ADVANCE PAYMENTS MUST BE REFUNDED, AND (B) REFUNDS REVERT TO GENERAL RESERVES AND ARE LOST TO NEA.

4. THEREFORE CANCELLATION OF THESE FOUR LEASES, EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE REGAIN ADVANCES ALREADY PAID, WOULD MEAN STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN ON UNBUDGETED RENTALS. IN VIEW OF PENDING CONGRESSIONAL REDUCTIONS IN FY 75 BUDGET, WE ARE SIMPLY IN NO POSITION TO DO SO AT THIS TIME.

5. WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN FOR SECURITY, OF COURSE, BUT HAVING EMPLOYEES FIFTEEN MINUTES AWAY FROM EMBASSY BY CAR IS NO DIFFERENT SITUATION THAN THAT NOW EXISTING AT OTHER NEA HIGH-RISK SECURITY POSTS, SUCH AS BEIRUT AND TEL AVIV. YOU MAY WISH CONTACT RSO BEIRUT FOR ASSESSMENT ANY OTHER SECURITY FACTORS INVOLVED.

6. IT IS NOT THE BUREAU'S WISH TO BE NEGATIVE IN ANY WAY IN THESE MATTERS, BUT DO ASK YOUR CONSIDERATION AND UNDERSTANDING ALL FACTORS INVOLVED IN DECISION. KISSINGER

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